

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01971 031307Z
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ORM-02 SS-15 IO-13 L-03 H-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 AID-05 IGA-02 PA-01
PRS-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 PM-04 SP-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 /075 W
-----031312 001896/44

O 031230Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1487

CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 1971

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, IR
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING

REF: (A) STATE 38407, (B) STATE 46674, (C) 76 STATE 243028,
(D) TEHRAN 9961, (E) 76 TEHRAN 12714, (F) TEHRAN 241, (G)
TEHRAN 1884, (H) TEHRAN 1889, (I) TEHRAN 1142, (J) TEHRAN 1862,
(K) TEHRAN 468, (L) TEHRAN 624, (M) TEHRAN 976, (N) TEHRAN 1140,
(O) TEHRAN 1017, (P) TEHRAN 707, (Q) TEHRAN 1485, (R) TEHRAN 1760

1. REPORT MENTIONED REF A AND B HAS NOT RPT NOT YET ARRIVED
AT POST. DRAFT REPORT AND POST SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES (REF C
AND D) HAVE BEEN REVIEWED. GROWING GOI INTEREST AND CONCERN IN
SUBJECT SUGGESTED BY MEETINGS BETWEEN EMBOFFS AND GOI OFFICIALS
(REF E AND F) AND EMBOFFS AND SENIOR RESURGENCE PARTY OFFICIAL
WHO IS ALSO CLOSE TO GOI (REF G). SINCE MISSION RECOMMENDED
SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN DRAFT TEXT (REF D), WE WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING TELEGRAPHICALLY FINAL TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT
PRIOR TO DEPSEC'S TESTIMONY MARCH 7.

2. PER PARA 4, (REF B, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT
HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAN SINCE FIRST OF YEAR
(REFS E THROUGH R) WHICH WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS INCOR-
PORATED INTO DEPSEC'S TESTIMONY AS Q AND A. MEDIA HAVE
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BEEN ALLOWED TO INTERVIEW PRISONERS AND INSPECT PRISONS
(REF G) AND SHAH HAS PARDONED SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PRI-
SONERS OF ALL KINDS, SPECIFYING FOR THE FIRST TIME THOSE
RELEASED WHO WERE CONVICTED OF "POLITICAL" CRIMES (REF I).

3. IRAN HAS ALSO BECOME MORE SENSITIZED TO WHAT IT CON-
SIDERS UNWARRANTED AND INACCURATE FOREIGN CRITICISM. SHAH'S

COMMENTS IN VARIOUS PRESS CONFERENCES (REF K THROUGH N) HAVE SUGGESTED IRAN IS BEING PICKED ON FOR OTHER REASONS THAN ITS PERFORMANCE IN FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. CONCURRENTLY, GOI HAD STRONG REACTION TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL "CAMPAIGN" AGAINST IRAN (REF O), AND IRANIAN PARLIAMENT HAS ESTABLISHED SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (REF P). PRIVATELY, GOI HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY MORE FORTHCOMING ABOUT REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS CASES (REF Q).

4. BASIC THRUST OF EVENTS OVER PAST TWO MONTHS HAS BEEN INCREASING IRANIAN ATTENTION TO SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS; SOME STEPS, BOTH SUBSTANTIVE AND SYMBOLIC, TO IMPROVE BOTH IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURE AND IMAGE; AND A GENERAL RE-THINKING OF SITUATION (REF R). EVENTS HAVE HEIGHTENED PROSPECTS OF FURTHER IRANIAN MOVEMENT IN THIS FIELD AND POTENTIAL FOR ADVERSE REACTION TO FOREIGN CRITICISM, PARTICULARLY IF IT IS JUDGED HERE AS INACCURATE OR OVER-DONE.

5. RECOMMEND DEPSEC'S TESTIMONY AVOID ANY POSSIBLE TEMPTATION TO ASCRIBE MOVEMENT IN SEVERAL AREAS OF IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS TO US "PRESSURE." FROM US VIEWPOINT, BELIEVE PAST TWO MONTHS underscore RELATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF OBLIQUE AND MAINLY PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS--AS OPPOSED TO DIRECT CONFRONTATIONS WITH AN ALLY.

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